

586 HUMBLY ASK FOR THE BLESSING OF GOD !  
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This doctrine, my friends ! is Reason and Wisdom ! But, after all, do not depend too much upon your own Industry, and Frugality, and Prudence ; though, excellent things ! For they may all be blasted without the Blessing of Heaven : and, therefore, ask that Blessing humbly ! and be not uncharitable to those that at present, seem to want it; but comfort and help them ! Remember, JOB suffered, and was afterwards prosperous.

And now to conclude. *Experience keeps a dear school; but Fools will learn in no other > and scarce in that!* for it is true, *We may give Advice, but we cannot give Conduct,* as *Poor RICHARD* says. However, remember this! *They that won't be counselled, can't be helped !* as *Poor RICHARD* says: and farther, that. *If you will not hear reason, she'll surely rap your knuckles!"*

Thus the old gentleman ended his harangue. The people heard it, and approved the doctrine; and immediately practised the contrary, just as if it had been a common sermon ! For the Vendue opened, and they began to buy extravagantly; notwithstanding all his cautions, and their own fear of taxes,

I found the good man had thoroughly studied my *Almanacs*^ and digested all I had dropped on those topics during the course of five and twenty years. The frequent mention he made of me, must have tired any one else; but my vanity was wonderfully delighted with it •. though I was conscious that not a tenth part of the wisdom was my own, which he ascribed to me; but rather the gleanings I had made of the Sense of all Ages and Nations. However, I resolved to be the better for the Echo of it; and though I had, at first, determined to buy stuff for a new coat; I went away resolved to wear my old one a little longer. Reader! if thou wilt do the same, thy profit will be as great as mine. I am, as ever,

Thine, to serve thee !  
RICHARD

July 7, 1757.  
SAUNDERS\*